

Daring Faith Series – Part 4: Taking the Initiative
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Good morning! Welcome to week 4 of our series “Daring Faith”. Over the last few weeks we have been covering what it means to

- 1. Building a Life of Faith**
- 2. Expecting the Best**
- 3. Expanding your imagination**
- 4. Taking the Initiative**

Today is a turning point in our series. We stop thinking and we start doing.

HABIT 1: BE PROACTIVE

Responsible for behavior, results and growth.

Habit 1: Be Proactive is about taking responsibility for your life. You can't keep blaming everything on your parents or grandparents. Proactive people recognize that they are "response-able." They don't blame genetics, circumstances, conditions or conditioning for their behavior. They know they choose their behavior. Reactive people, on the other hand, are often affected by their physical environment. They find external sources to blame for their behavior. If the weather is good, they feel good. If it isn't, it affects their attitude and performance, and they blame the weather.

I don't want to skip over this point too quickly, for some of you this is a major paradigm shift.

Abusive home

Dominant parents or siblings

Poverty

Expand your imagination. Change the way you think.

Life of fear. We let life happen to us. In life of faith we take initiative. David, Abraham.
Quitting the football team.

Are you waiting for God to do something in your life? Maybe God is waiting for you to do something.

James 2:18

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

James 2:18 (NCV) Faith that does nothing is worth nothing.

How do you get the energy to do the thing you have been putting off?

Story of Tracy and I in the library.

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

- 1. Respond to God immediately.**

³²I run in the path of your commands,

⁶⁰ I will hasten and not delay
to obey your commands.

Understanding Obedience: because I said so.

Pretend they can't hear.

Parents talk to their kids and the children pretend they can't hear.
We do this all the time to God even as adults.

Imagine they are talking to someone else; you mean me?

We can use talking about it to delay obedience, prayer.

What are you pretending not to hear from God?

If this is new for you, please get a wiser Christian involved, someone you trust.

2. Respond to God completely.

Psalm 119:4

**⁴You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.**

Competence is "Doing work with excellence to full completion"

Statue of Liberty

Did God really say the temptation to not trust God's word?

Proverbs 3:5-6

**⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit
to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

If you feel like God has given you something to do, write it down, talk to a mentor about it for accountability.

3. Respond to God joyfully.

The scriptures are full of examples of followers of God, obeying him with joy.

Responding to God joyfully means you have real faith.

Faith is the confident assurance that God is in control of the future and that he plans what's best for my life, because he loves me.

You can respond joyfully to God because obeying him will really reduce problems, receive a reward in heaven and because you love God.

1 John 1:3 Loving God means I do what he says.

John 14:15 If you love me, keep my commands

4. Respond to God continually.

It's a marathon not a sprint. Obeying God is something that you do for the rest of your life.

So often we are asking God about the next thing, looking for the next instruction when we haven't obeyed that last thing or the last instruction.

Telling God I will do whatever you ask me to do, I am determined to obey even before I get into that situation.

Philippians 3:16

¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Are you responding God?

Are you obeying God in the things he has already told you to do?

In your dating relationships

In your finances

Business practice

Telling the truth

Forgiveness

Discipline

Apologize

Hobbies

Ask God

Where have you already told me to do something that I am not obeying?

Philippians 4:5

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

We cannot just talk about faith and not do something about it.

What would taking the next step look like to you?

Don't be afraid.

I can do all things through Christ.

Respond to God immediately.

Respond to God completely.

Respond to God joyfully.

Respond to God continually.

Time to respond

Closing Song